

# The COURT COMPASS

NEWSLETTER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS JUDICIAL BRANCH

## IT Department Solves Problems with Printing Criminal Record Reports

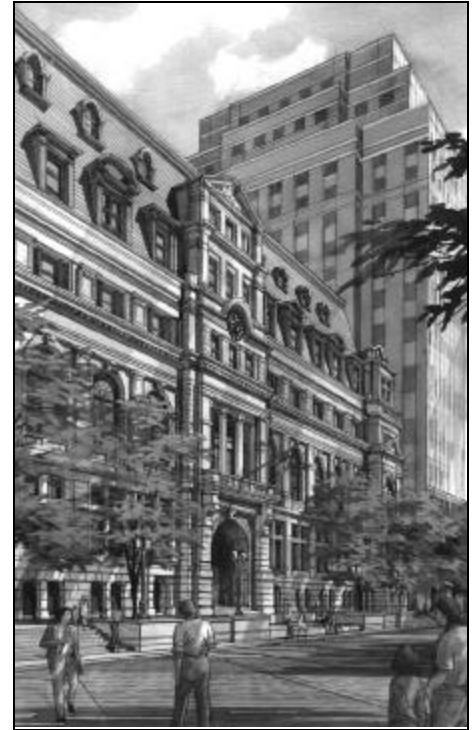
Judges, probation officers, support staff, and other authorized court personnel can now print current criminal offender records in a matter of seconds with a new Web-based computer network quickly installed by the Administrative Office of the Trial Court's Information Technology Department.

The new system, called CARIWEB, was installed in six weeks to relieve a bottleneck that had developed as court personnel throughout Massachusetts simultaneously tried to print reports from the huge, centralized Criminal Activities Records Information database. Just last winter, CARI reports could remain in the print queue for up to five hours.

"We're very proud of what our Information Technology Group has done with minimum Massachusetts expenditures to make current criminal records immediately accessible. And it was done very quickly, with federal grant money and smart pro-

*CARIWEB*

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*Courtesy of Social Law Library*

At left, a crane and scaffolding obscure the facade of the Suffolk County Courthouse in April, as construction crews work to restore the building to the condition depicted in the artist's rendering at right.

## Suffolk County Courthouse Renovation on Schedule with Focus on Historic Role

From the outside, the renovation of the historic Suffolk County Courthouse on Pemberton Square may appear to be a straightforward construction project. While trucks and other heavy machines rumble to and from the site, which has been cordoned off by chain-link fencing, a crane hoists materials into and out of the 108-year-old building.

Amidst the dust and noise of jackhammers, crumbling plaster, welders, and steel, a project of historic significance to the civic life of the state and surrounding community is well under way. As the future home of the Supreme Judicial Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, and the Social Law Library, the Courthouse will become the centerpiece of the Massachusetts court system. In recognition of its stature, Governor Jane Swift filed legislation in late March to rename it the John Adams Courthouse. In addition to being the second President of the United States,

*Suffolk County Courthouse*

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## CARIWEB

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gramming," said Chief Justice for Administration and Management Barbara A. Dortch-Okara.

West Roxbury District Court Judge Robert C. Rufo added, "The new system has had a substantial, positive effect on our ability to manage our caseload, especially with regards to 209A Abuse Prevention Orders."

The CARI database, housed on a mainframe Unisys computer at the Trial Court Data Center in Cambridge, contains information on more than eleven million cases involving more than three million adults and one million juveniles.

In recent years the database has grown enormously as paper files have been computerized. It is updated 50,000 times a day, and contains statewide data for eight types of reports, such as Adult Criminal Records, Juvenile Delinquent Records, and the Civil Restraining Order Registry.

Several copies of up-to-date reports are necessary for almost every defendant who appears before any Trial Court in the Commonwealth. The reports are so critical to the daily operation of the courts that an average of 30,000 reports are printed each day.

Peter Greeley, the Information Technology Department Operations and Applications Manager who supervised the CARIWEB Project, said that demand for printed reports also accelerated as the number of personal computers within the court system grew.

"In addition to judges and probation staff, now district attorneys, defendants and their attorneys, and others get copies of the various reports," he said. "The new demand quickly ate up the old system's capacity to quickly print everything."

By November, court staff had to wait as long as four or five hours to print their reports. "People try to print reports as early as six in the morning," Mr. Greeley said. "By the afternoon,



**Nancy A. Capone, Probation Operations Supervisor at Barnstable Superior Court, begins to log on to the CARIWEB Intranet site, from which records may be printed in a matter of seconds.**

sometimes several thousand reports would be waiting in the queue."

The Information Technology Department resolved the problem through a \$475,000 grant from the United States Justice Department's National Criminal History Improvement Program.

"We learned we qualified for the grant in November, and that the new system had to be configured by December 31," said Maritza Bond, Acting Director of the Information Technology Department. "We made that deadline, began piloting the project in January and went on-line at the end of February." By mid-April, approximately 2,700 users at more than 200 locations will be using CARIWEB.

The hardware heart of the system consists of five new servers, each of which contains constantly updated copies of the CARI database. The five servers share the task of receiving requests for reports and sending the proper data back to the appropriate courthouse printer.

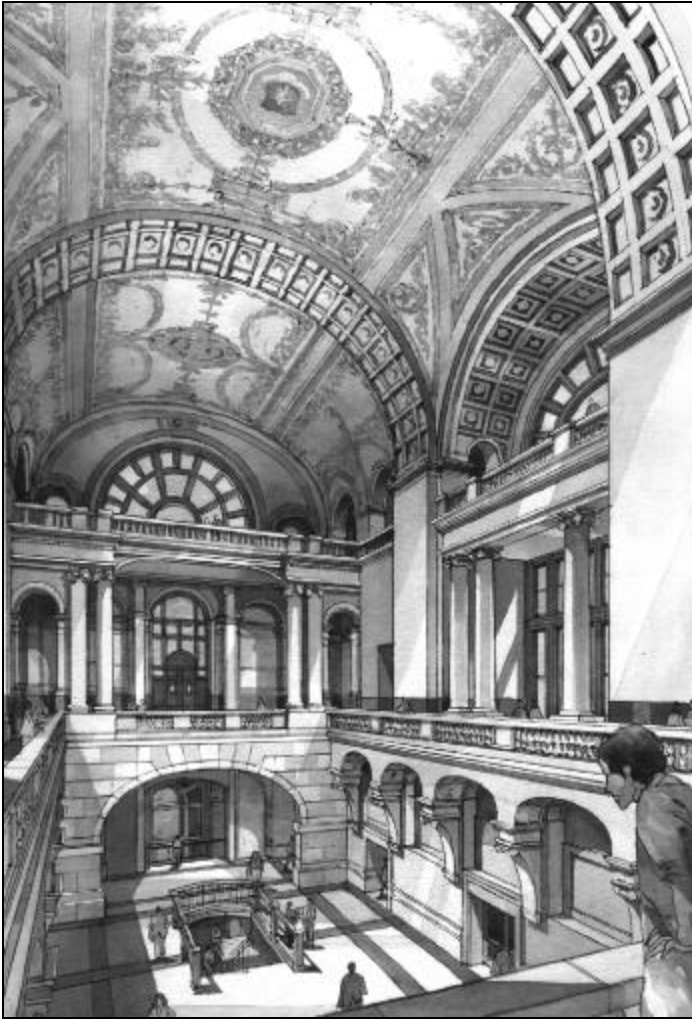
Controlling the hardware is Linux-based operating software that the Information Technology Depart-

ment obtained for free. "In terms of the budget, the system really didn't cost us very much," Ms. Bond said. "The grant paid for the servers and we were able to take advantage of free software."

Moreover, the system is as easy to use as the Internet, as users log on via standard browser software. Mr. Greeley notes, however, that the network is actually an Intranet, as access is strictly controlled through approved user identification and passwords. All users also are required to change their passwords every ninety days.

Once authorized users have logged on, ordering a report is as simple as navigating through any commercial Website.

First Deputy Commissioner of Probation John F. Cremens, Jr., said, "We've received nothing but positive feedback about CARIWEB. Our support staff and probation officers can't get over how fast it works. Once they send in their request, they get back a report almost instantaneously. It is expediting the entire court process." ■



Courtesy of Social Law Library



Courtesy of Social Law Library

The artist's rendering at left shows the dramatic architecture and vaulted ceiling that will greet visitors as they enter the Great Hall via the central staircase, shown at the lower left of the picture. On the second floor, between the pillars at the right of the picture, is the entrance to the Supreme Judicial Court Courtroom, which is shown in the artist's rendering above. In the photo at top, the small test square of cleaned wall shows how much brighter the ceiling and walls will be once they are completely restored.

### Suffolk County Courthouse

the Quincy native also was the principal author of the Massachusetts Constitution and the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court since the beginning of the American Revolution.

"The restoration is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reconnect the community and its leaders to the central and historic role of the Massachusetts judiciary," said SJC Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall. "Inside its modernized, timeless structure will be the living legacy of an independent judiciary, one of the cornerstones of our democracy, first memorialized in the Massachusetts Constitution."

The Courthouse will be a welcoming site for people of all ages and backgrounds, including schoolchildren, tourists, and international visitors. On the first floor will be exhibit space for

interactive displays to highlight the rich legal history of the 309-year-old Supreme Judicial Court and the Social Law Library. Educational events will highlight the continuing, universal importance of legal precepts developed by Massachusetts luminaries, such as Adams and other preeminent Chief Justices including Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., and Lemuel Shaw.

"This is the state's largest, grandest, most venerable Courthouse," said Social Law Library Executive Director Robert J. Brink, Esq. "It is perfectly suitable that the oldest Court in the Western Hemisphere and the oldest law library in the United States would be here." He added that the timing of the renovations, on schedule to be completed in the fall of 2003, was especially propitious for the Social Law Library,

which next year will be celebrating its bicentennial. More details about the project, including photos, drawings and construction updates, can be found on the Library Website, at <http://renovation.sociallaw.com>.

### Restoration and Construction

The construction work itself also is more than simply the modernization of a century-old building.

"This project combines the difficulty of restoring an architectural gem — really one of the foremost aesthetic restoration projects going on in the United States right now — with the construction work of creating spaces for a fully modern courthouse," explains Supreme Judicial Court and Massachusetts



*Suffolk County Courthouse**continued from page 3*

Appeals Court Reporter of Decisions C. Clifford Allen. Mr. Allen is a member of the Executive Committee overseeing the project and is closely involved with its day-to-day management.

The most difficult task of the aesthetic restoration is the cleaning and repairing of frescoes on the vaulted ceiling that soars three stories above the Courthouse's central Great Hall. The ceiling, approximately 50 feet by 75 feet, is poorly lit and has grown dingy with time.

"There is 100 years of grime, smoke, and coal dust from the original heating system built up over the frescoes," said Paul Viccica, an architect with the Boston firm Childs, Bertman, Tseckares, Inc., which designed the renovations.

After consulting with experts who helped restore New York City's Grand Central Station, the designers determined that the safest way to remove the grime without harming the paint was with a solution of water, soap, and a small amount of alcohol. Workers will clean the frescoes by carefully dabbing the cleanser on with small cotton swabs "not quite as small as a Q-Tip," Mr. Viccica said.

Given the size of the ceiling and the painstaking nature of the task, the job is expected to take a full year. However, a test patch on a wall just below the ceiling demonstrates the effectiveness of the solution and technique, as the square appears as if it is illuminated by a beam of light. "The amount of difference in the colors is remarkable," Mr. Viccica said.

Cracks in the ceiling also will be repaired, although smaller fissures will be left alone. When unobtrusive, modern lighting is installed, the arched centerpiece of the building will be even more striking than it was when the Courthouse first opened, in 1894. When the project is completed, Mr. Viccica said, "the ceiling will be seen in all its glory for the first time in the building's history."

### Reconfiguring Space

By the end of March, however, none of the operations of the construction project involved any tool as light as



*Courtesy of Social Law Library*

**A large room on the fourth floor of the Courthouse, formerly occupied by the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds, will become a reading room of the Social Law Library.**

**'We've inherited a spectacular building. We want people to really appreciate what a fantastic place this is.'**

—Architect Paul Viccica

a cotton swab. Walls and floors are being reconfigured to create appropriate spaces for the public, Justices, and staff, including an SJC Courtroom, two Appeals Court Courtrooms, and a separate courtroom for single justice hearings of both Courts. Extensive work also is required to repair the building's roof and exterior stonework.

The five-story Courthouse is built in the shape of a rectangular figure-eight, as each of the two wings on opposite sides of the central Great Hall surround a ground-level courtyard. To increase the space within the building without changing its outward appearance, the new SJC Courtroom will occupy the southern courtyard, while one floor of library space will be built above the parking area in the northern courtyard.

An existing courtroom used by the Supreme Judicial Court before 1938, when it moved into its current location

in the adjacent, high-rise Suffolk County Courthouse, will become the courtroom for single justice hearings.

The courtroom will be restored to its appearance in 1894, and shared by the Supreme Judicial Court and Appeals Court. On the plaster walls above the chamber's intricate, ten-foot high oak wainscoting, designers scraped through more than a dozen layers of paint to determine the courtroom's original color — a pale peach — and also discovered extensive stenciling on all the walls. The color and stenciling will be faithfully recreated.

Throughout the Courthouse, construction crews have carefully removed wood paneling and marble from walls and floors to be demolished during the project. The original materials have been catalogued and stored for refurbishment and installation on new surfaces. The marble will be cleaned and polished, and the paneling will be stripped of its darkened, century-old varnish and returned to its original, lighter color. All wood and marble on surfaces that will not be demolished have been carefully covered with a protective layer of plywood.

The Social Law Library will have large reading rooms on the fourth and

*Suffolk County Courthouse continued on page 5*



## Justices Encourage Law Students of Color to Apply for Clerkships

Supreme Judicial Court Justice Roderick L. Ireland, left, and Chief Justice for Administration and Management Barbara A. Dortch-Okara, second from right, speak with prospective law clerks during the SJC Forum for Law Students of Color at Boston's Edward W. Brooke Courthouse in March.

Speakers at the forum included Chelsea District Court Judge Diana L. Maldonado and other former law clerks, who encouraged the students to apply for Judicial Branch clerkships. The approximately seventy-five students at the Forum also had the opportunity to meet with other representatives of the SJC, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, and the Trial Court departments, including SJC Justices Francis X. Spina, Judith A. Cowin, Martha B. Sosman, and Robert J. Cordy; and Probate and Family Court Chief Justice Sean M. Dunphy.

At right in the photo, speaking with Justice Ireland, is New England School of Law student Byron Knight. In 1994, Mr. Knight began developing his interest in the court system as a participant in the Judicial Youth Corps, the SJC program of educational sessions and summer internships for high school students.

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fifth floors. Mr. Viccica characterizes the room on the fourth floor, formerly occupied by the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds, as "one of the premier rooms in Boston."

"The renovated Courthouse will provide the Social Law Library with enough space for seventeen years of growth," said Executive Director Brink. "We've been very squeezed for the last thirty years, but the new space will allow us to expand our strong traditional collection and expand into newer areas such as international law and intellectual property rights."

The Courthouse also will become one of the most technologically advanced in the nation. The courtrooms will be equipped with modern audio/visual systems, including the capability to broadcast proceedings on the Internet. A Conference Center will allow overflow crowds to watch sessions as they occur. The entire building, including every seat in the Social Law Library, will be wired for accessing information sources both within the Courthouse and around the world.

Other modern systems, such as central heating and air conditioning, updated plumbing, improved handicapped access, and a security pass-card system also will be installed. People moving from a public area to a staff area will have to either pass by a court officer or unlock a door with an identification card.

The Courthouse's main entrance has been significantly redesigned to accommodate security and handicapped needs. Entering the Courthouse from Pemberton Square used to require ascending a flight of exterior stairs, pushing through two sets of heavy doors, and immediately climbing another set of stairs to the floor of the Great Hall.

In the renovated Courthouse, the floor of the entryway will be at the same level as Pemberton Square, and the main stairway up to the Great Hall will be pushed back about thirty feet. This larger entry area will house a security office, metal detectors, and elevators.

People who use the stairs, however, will find themselves entering the dramatic space of the Great Hall nearly at

its center. Above them, aligned along the two tiers of walkways ringing the atrium, will be entrances to courtrooms and offices, crowned by the brilliant, ornately decorated ceiling.

"We've inherited a spectacular building," Mr. Viccica said. "We want people to really appreciate what a fantastic place this is."

### On Schedule and Under Budget

Construction crews first arrived at the building on November 1, 2001. The general contractor, a partnership between Suffolk Construction Company, Inc., and NER Construction Management, Inc., has remained on schedule to complete the project by the late fall of 2003. They have been able to stay on their timetable in part because demolition crews so far have discovered few of the complications that can arise from working on a century-old building.

The lack of serious complications also has kept the project within its budget of \$96 million. Funds for the project were appropriated in 1998 as part of the \$730.3 million Court Facilities Act. ■



On the bench from left, Supreme Judicial Court Justices Martha B. Sosman, Francis X. Spina, and John M. Greaney; Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall; and Justices Roderick L. Ireland, Judith A. Cowin, and Robert J. Cordy hear

oral arguments of a case on appeal at the Barnstable sitting on April 2. In front of the bench, from left, are Barnstable Superior Court Clerk of Courts Scott W. Nickerson and SJC Clerk for the Commonwealth Susan Mellen.

## Supreme Judicial Court Holds Barnstable Sitting

The Supreme Judicial Court held its fifteenth sitting outside Boston since 1993 at Barnstable Superior Court, where Cape Cod students, teachers, attorneys, and residents crowded the gallery to observe the Commonwealth's highest court in action.

The SJC heard oral arguments in five cases on appeal. Before oral arguments, Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall noted, "It is particularly fitting for the Court to hold this sitting in Barnstable, the birthplace of Chief Justice Lemuel Shaw, one of the most famous Chief Justices of the 19th Century."

The SJC Historical Society provided a special exhibit for the occasion, featuring information about other Barnstable natives, including Colonel James Otis, Sr., and James Otis, Jr., who were American Revolution legal luminaries.



SJC Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall addresses members of the Barnstable legal community, including judges, clerks, legislators, and attorneys, during a luncheon sponsored by the Barnstable Bar Association.



## NEWSMAKERS



Head Law Librarian Barbara Fell-Johnson of the Hampshire Law Library, center, was recognized by the Hampshire Bar Association for her years of service to attorneys. At left is Superior Court Judge Bertha D. Josephson, who introduced Ms. Fell-Johnson at the award ceremony in February. At right is Hampshire County Bar Association President David E. Sullivan.

### Head Law Librarian Barbara Fell-Johnson Feted by Bar Association

For her three decades of guiding attorneys and non-attorneys alike through the ever-growing thickets of legal information, Head Law Librarian Barbara Fell-Johnson of the Hampshire Law Library was awarded the Hampshire County Bar Association's annual Contribution to Justice Award in February.

Ms. Fell-Johnson began working as a volunteer in 1971 at the Hampshire Law Library, one of seventeen Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries. In September, 1972, she became the Head Law Librarian, as well as the Library's sole paid employee. The Library began adding additional staff in 1986.

"The number of resources at the Library has grown significantly, and changed significantly" she said. "We have now incorporated a significant number of electronic resources used in legal research."

Although her first academic degree was in home economics, Ms. Fell-Johnson started her career as a law librarian in San Mateo, California.

Once she moved to Massachusetts, she earned her Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of Rhode Island while working at the Hampshire Law Library.

She said that while she was pleased to receive the honor, "it doesn't feel like it was me they were giving it to, for doing something I love so much. I enjoy coming in to work every day. We have a fantastic staff here, of people I enjoy being with every day."

### Volunteers at Help Desk Have Quickly Joined 'Court Family' at Woburn

In addition to the information kiosks at nine courthouses listed in the Winter, 2002, Court Compass, the Woburn District Court also operates a desk to help direct visitors to the courthouse, which also houses sessions of the Middlesex County Juvenile Court.

Woburn District Court First Justice Marie O. Jackson-Thompson, with the help of Judicial Assistant Diane T. Dever, initiated the service about a year and a half ago. Through a newspaper advertisement and word of mouth, they found three capable volunteers who staff the table every morning from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Before John Jaronyk, Josephine Clancy, and Helen Morley began their service, Judge Jackson-Thompson and Ms. Dever assembled a manual of court information for them. The volunteers also took part in an orientation session, at which clerks, probation officers, and others discussed their roles in the court system.

"They really have become part of the court family," Judge Jackson-Thompson said. "I'm very impressed with their enthusiasm, loyalty, and professionalism. Through snow, or rain, or hail, these people are here, doing their job."

### Berkshire Court Officers' Quick Actions Help Save Stricken Juror's Life

Quick thinking and prompt action by three court officers in Berkshire County Superior Court helped save the life of a juror stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage last November.

Soon after the jury in a trial presided over by Superior Court Judge Daniel A. Ford entered the deliberation room, the jury foreman frantically told officers that one of the jurors had collapsed. Court Officers James Clark, David Hadley, and Vincent Patella immediately called for an ambulance, comforted the juror until the medical team arrived, and helped carry the juror to the ambulance.

They also escorted the remaining jurors back to the courtroom to prevent them from having any outside contacts that might have jeopardized the trial. The juror's condition improved, and jury deliberations began anew with an alternate juror.

"Simply put, it appears the court officers saved the juror's life. In addition, they were able to preserve the integrity of the jury's deliberations," Judge Ford said.



Court Officer  
James Clark



Court Officer  
David Hadley



Court Officer  
Vincent Patella

## Recently Appointed Judges Confer with Bench Veterans at Judicial Seminar

Trial Court judges who were appointed to the bench since June 1, 2000, attended a four-day educational conference in Salem in March. Forty-five judges from six Trial Court departments attended, including several longer-serving judges who had transferred from one department to another.

Speakers included Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall, SJC Chief Justice Herbert P. Wilkins (Ret.) and Chief Justice for Administration and Management Barbara A. Dortch-Okara. Other sessions were conducted by dozens of veteran judges and experts from outside the court system, on such topics as case flow management and conducting specific types of hearings, as well as on such social issues as substance abuse and domestic violence. The conference was organized by the Administrative Office of the Trial Court's Judicial Institute and the Flaschner Judicial Institute.

Below, judges from several departments listen as, above, Worcester Probate and Family Court Associate Justice Susan D. Ricci, Leominster District Court First Justice John J. Curran, and Superior Court Associate Justice Paul A. Chernoff lead a plenary session on managing the courtroom.



## CALENDAR

### APRIL

- 24 Judicial Institute: "Supervision in the Workplace," for selected Office Managers and Operations Supervisors, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Edward W. Brooke Courthouse in Boston. (Program also will be held at the same time on April 25 in Boston and on May 1 and 2 in Worcester.)

### MAY

- 2 Judicial Institute, Meet the Author Series: R. Lundy Bancroft, author of "The Batterer as Parent: Addressing the Impact of Domestic Violence On Family Dynamics," for Judges, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Edward W. Brooke Courthouse in Boston.
- 11 Flaschner Judicial Institute, Science and Technology Series: "A Visit to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution: An Exploration of the Oceans and Climate Change," for Judges, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Woods Hole.
- 15-16 "Reimagining our Professional Lives: A Colloquium for Lawyers and Judges," co-sponsored by the Flaschner Judicial Institute, Suffolk University Law School's Center for Advanced Legal Studies, and the Macaronis Institute for Trial and Appellate Advocacy, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on May 15 and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on May 16, at Suffolk University Law School.
- 22 Judicial Institute: "Americans with Disabilities Act," for ADACoordinators, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Westfield. (Program also will be held on May 11.)
- 27 Memorial Day — Courts are closed.

For more information on Judicial Institute programs, call (617) 788-6775.

For more information on Flaschner Judicial Institute programs, call (617) 542-8838.

## The Court Compass

The Court Compass is a quarterly publication written and produced by the Public Information Office of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Please send questions, comments, ideas, or letters to Joan Kenney, Public Information Officer, or to Bruce Brock, Publications Specialist.

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